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Title: Novel Nucleic Acids and Polypeptide Molecules

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February 4, 2004
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Commissioner for Patents
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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION DATED 21 JAN 2004
AND AMENDMENT

Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Restriction action issued 21 January 2004 in the above-referenced case. Please amend the application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are shown in the listing of claims beginning on page 2 of this paper,

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 4 of this paper.

Please cancel claims 4 and 9-32 without prejudice or disclaimer to their renewal in a subsequently filed application.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of: ~~comprising a nucleotide sequence which encodes a protein comprising the amino acid sequence as set forth in **Figure 11, 13, or 19**~~

(a) SEQ ID NO:34;

(b) a nucleotide sequence encoding the protein of Fig. 19 (SEQ ID NO:35).

Claim 2. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes MAFBX, or a fragment thereof, having a sequence selected from the group consisting of

a) the nucleotide sequence comprising ~~the coding region of MAFBX as set forth in Figure 10, 12, or 19~~ SEQ ID NO:34;

(b) a nucleotide sequence who complement hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleotide sequences of (a) and which encodes a molecule having the biological activity of MAFBX; or

(c) a nucleotide sequence which, but for the degeneracy of the genetic code would hybridize to a complement of the nucleotide sequence of (a) or the complement of (b), and which encodes a molecule having the biological activity of MAFBX.

Claim 3. (currently amended) ~~An isolated nucleic acid molecule which is~~ The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 derived from a mammalian genome that:

a) hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleic acid molecule of ~~Figures 10, 12, or 18~~ (a); and

b) encodes a gene product which contains a ring domain.

Claim 4. (canceled)

Claim 5. (currently amended) A vector which comprises ~~a~~ the nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~1, 2, or 3~~.

Claim 6. (currently amended) ~~A vector according to~~ The vector of claim 5, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is operatively linked to an expression control sequence capable of directing its

expression in a host cell.

Claim 7. (original) A host-vector system for the production of MAFBX polypeptide which comprises a host cell transformed with the vector of claim 5.

Claim 8. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The host-vector system ~~according to~~ of claim 7 wherein the host cell is a bacterial, yeast, insect or mammalian cell.

Claims 9-32. (canceled)

Claim 33. (new) A vector which comprises the nucleic acid molecule of claim 3.

Claim 34. (new) The vector of claim 33, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is operatively linked to an expression control sequence capable of directing its expression in a host cell.

Claim 35. (new) A host-vector system for the production of MAFBX polypeptide which comprises a host cell transformed with the vector of claim 34.

Claim 36. (new) The host-vector system of claim 35 wherein the host cell is a bacterial, yeast, insect or mammalian cell.

Claim 37. (new) A vector which comprises the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

Claim 38. (new) The vector of claim 37, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is operatively linked to an expression control sequence capable of directing its expression in a host cell.

Claim 39. (new) A host-vector system for the production of MAFBX polypeptide which comprises a host cell transformed with the vector of claim 38.

Claim 40. (new) The host-vector system of claim 39 wherein the host cell is a bacterial, yeast, insect or mammalian cell.